

St. Marks Episcopal Church  
Petersville  
Private

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It served for 60 years and was torn down in 1890 to make room for the existing church built in 1891.

It is not known who was the builder of the present church building, but Reverend E. T. Helfenstein was pastor during its construction. The belfry, buttress and overall Romanesque styling is similar to the Holy Trinity Church (F-1-8) built in nearby Point of Rocks in 1887.

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## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC St. Marks Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

East Side St. Marks Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Petersville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

M 83; P 63

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Frederick

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☒ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Frederick County Courthouse

Liber #: 1035

Folio #: 652

STREET &amp; NUMBER

North Court St.

CITY, TOWN

Frederick

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

St. Marks Episcopal Church is a rectangular one story brick front gable roofed structure with entry tower which faces east from the north side of St. Marks Road in the vicinity of Petersville.

The main entrance is located in the three story brick entry tower which is situated in the southeast corner of the building. Seven steps constructed of brick and cement with modern cast iron handrailing with cross shapes set into circles decoration leads up to the main entrance which are twin two inset panel doors with plain cornice molding and arched panel entranceway. The doorway is set with a plain solid sandstone doorsill. A semicircular stained glass transom sectioned in three parts is located over the doorway. A triple row of header bricks arches over the top of the doorway.

Located directly above the main entrance are twin narrow double hung 1/1 windows with quarried white stone windowsills and jack arches. A two row belt course extends along the base of the windows.

Located above these windows are three triangular openings with two rows of header arches. The base of these openings is a solid cut white stone sill sectioned into three parts.

Above the three triangular openings is a large triangular opening which accommodates the swinging bell inside the tower. This opening also has a solid white quarried stone sill and a stepped header brick arch. The main entrance and window and triangular decoration is inset one course from the principal face of the belfry tower. Cross shaped openings are inserted in the brick coursing in the upper north and south corners of the main face of the tower.

The north and south sides of the entry tower are identical to the principal side with the exception of a double hung 1/1 semicircular stained glass window with white painted wood sill and half round molding twin header brick arch centered on the first level.

The entire belfry tower is set on a low random stone foundation which is stepped with bricks on the north and south side and is covered by the original patterned slate pyramidal roof with boxed cornice and plain frieze. A copper (?) cross is set on the top of the roof.

The main block of the building is a narrow twelve bays wide sectioned on the north and south sides in four parts with three single pane narrow very decorative stained glass windows with lead tracery and rounded wood molding and wood sills located in each bay. The center window is slightly wider in each section.

Each section is three bays wide. Each section is separated by massive stepped brick buttresses laid in stretcher bond. A sandstone cornerstone is located in the southeast buttress which states "To The Glory Of God St. Marks Church 1891."

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

F-2-12

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1891 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Marks Episcopal Church is significant to Frederick County architecturally as an example of vernacular Romanesque Revival architecture and as the first Episcopal Parish established in Frederick County outside of Frederick.

The Parish of St. Marks was created in 1800, but a vestry was not elected until 1806.

According to Williams' History of Frederick County, "it is believed that the first building used for worship was but a temporary log structure... This church was finished in August, 1807 and Mr. (Leonard) Skaggs bill of 135 pounds, 2 shillings, 2 pence ordered paid. No mention (in the vestry records) is made of the size, shape, or material of the building except that it was a frame structure."<sup>1</sup>

In 1827, the vestry decided "to receive proposals for moulding, setting and burning one hundred thousand bricks for the purpose of building a church. The new building was to be 42 feet in width and 50 feet in length and to be furnished with pews. The brick church was completed in 1830."<sup>2</sup>

It served for 60 years and was torn down in 1890 to make room for the existing church built in 1891.

It is not known who was the builder of the present church building, but Reverend E. T. Helfenstein was pastor during its construction. The belfry, buttress and overall Romanesque styling is similar to the Holy Trinity Church (F-1-8) built in nearby Point of Rocks in 1887.

<sup>1</sup>T.J.C. Williams, History of Frederick County Maryland, Regional Publishing Co., Baltimore, Maryland, 1967, Rpt. 1910, Vol. I, p. 490.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 491.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Williams, T. J. C., History of Frederick County Maryland, Regional Publishing Co., Baltimore, Maryland, 1967, rpt. 1910; Vol. I., pgs. 490-491.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

clh

Cherilyn Widell, Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

Frederick County Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

7/25/80

STREET & NUMBER

Winchester Hall, 12 E. Church St.

TELEPHONE

694-1063

CITY OR TOWN

Frederick

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

## 7. DESCRIPTION

F-2-12

St. Marks Episcopal Church

The front gable side of the building is five bays wide. Tall narrow single pane stained glass windows separated into three sections with lead tracery are located in each bay. The windows are surrounded by three layers of half round molding with plain wood sills and triple header arches. Inset in the brick under each window are three two header high rectangular indentations for decoration. Two small triangular single pane stained glass windows are located in the gable over the fourth and fifth bays from the southwest corner. These windows also have three layers of half round molding, plain wood sills and triple header arches.

The roof is supported in the east gable by two massive scrolled brackets connected by a plain frieze with block dentiling and stick style decorative directly below the peak of the gable.

A two story original brick addition laid in common bond is located to the rear of the main block of the building serving as a transept to the church. This addition is three bays wide and three bays deep. It is lighted directly beneath the asphalt gable roof by three rectangular stained glass windows on the north and south sides.

One story additions with diagonal four panel doors and with sandstone doorsills are located on either side of the transept. A recent one story shed roof addition with three arched openings on the west side extends to the rear of the building and accommodates restrooms.

The main block is constructed on a low random stone foundation and is covered by a replaced overhanging front gable asphalt roof with full round corner molding. A single brick chimney extends from the southwest corner of the main building. Two eyelid windows are located on the north and south sides of the main roof.

The church is surrounded by a large graveyard with stones dating from the early nineteenth century and is surrounded by the original decorative cast iron fence.

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21 NW  
DYSVILLE

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

POINT OF ROCKS QUAD

77°37'30"  
39°22'30"

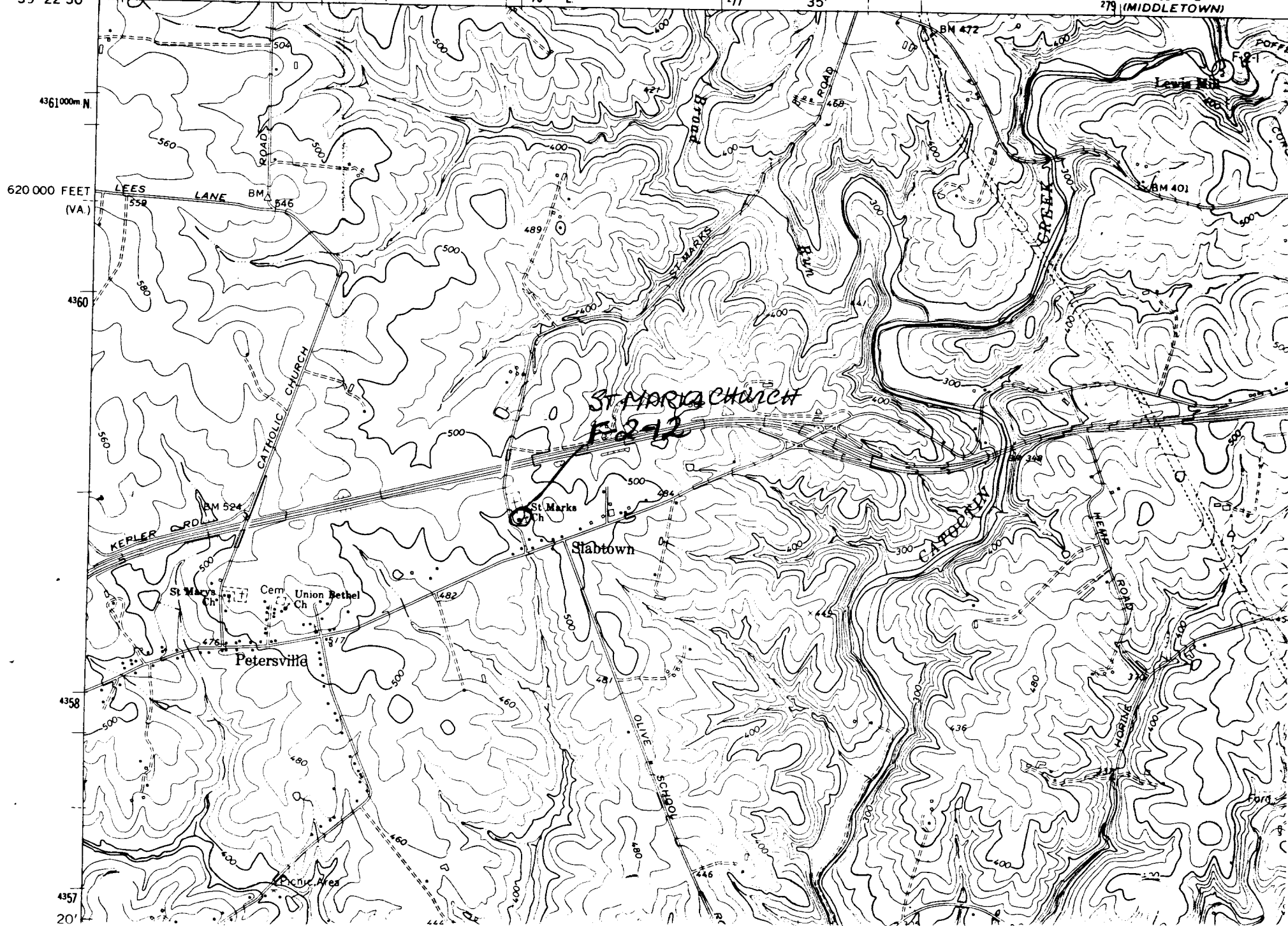
2 250 000 FEET (VA.)

276000m E

277

35'

5462 1 NE  
279 (MIDDLETOWN)



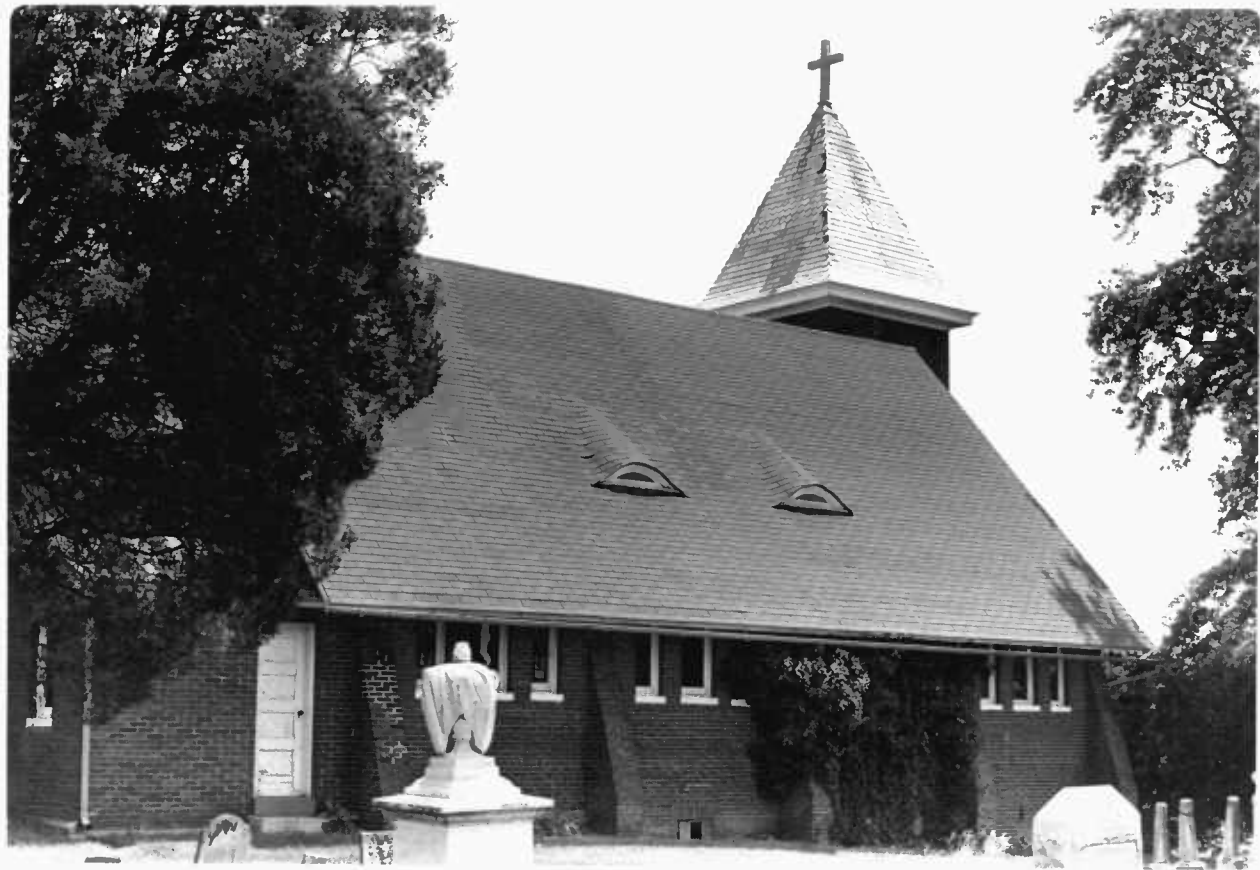




K-2-12 ST MARKS  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

E/S ST MARKS RD  
Petersville

NORTH EAST ELEVATION  
CEN 6/80



F-2-12 ST MARKS  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
E/S ST MARKS RD  
Petersville

CEN 6/89

NORTH WEST BLVD



F-2-12 ST MARKS  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
12/5 ST MARKS RD  
Peperuville  
SOUTH ELLEN  
CPW 6/80